

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116 -
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE-TECH. CENTER 1700**

**Serial No.: 09/853,372
Atty. Docket No.: 01-704-US**

REMARKS REGARDING THE AMENDMENTS

Original Claims 29-48 and 81-106 are pending.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, 27, 28, 49, 51-53, 55-75, 77-80 and 107-162 are canceled herein without prejudice and without conceding to the Examiner's characterizations. Claims 2, 6, 26, 50, 54 and 76 were canceled in a previous amendment.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

Claims 107-162 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. While Applicants do not concede to these rejections, these claims have been canceled. Applicants reserve their right to prosecute these canceled claims in a continuation application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 103 AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-5, 7-25, 27, 28, 49, 51-53, 55-75, 77-80 and 107-162 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or 103. While Applicants do not concede to these rejections, these claims have been canceled. Applicants reserve their right to prosecute these canceled claims in a continuation application.

Claims 29-33 and 38-48 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. There are, however, no 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejections in the outstanding Office Action. In a telephone interview between Examiner Nguyen and the undersigned on December 2, 2004, the Examiner indicated that Claims 29-33 and 38-48 are allowable as originally presented and that Applicants' arguments presented in the previous amendment concerning the previous 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection were persuasive.

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Original Claims 34-37 and 81-106 are indicated to be allowable.

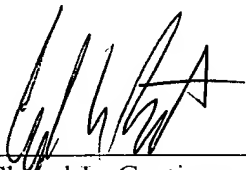
CONCLUSION

The amendments to the claims presented hereinabove are submitted in a sincere attempt to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that the proposed amendments raise no new issues nor any new matter which would require further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. The proposed amendments materially reduce and/or simplify the issues for appeal, and as such, they are submitted to place the application in better form for appeal should such become necessary.

All of the Examiner's concerns have been addressed by the above amendments and clarifying remarks. Applicants have canceled all rejected claims without prejudice. As such, Applicants respectfully assert the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and the issuance of a Notice of allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 14, 2004

By 
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